

environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document.

The agency scoping meeting will be held on November 18, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Room LW-4, Ray Building-AMHI Complex, Hospital Street (Rt. 9), Augusta, ME 04333. For more details, interested parties should contact Dana Murch, Maine DEP, at (207) 287-3901, prior to the meeting date.

The public scoping meeting will be held on November 18, 1996, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Central High School, 194 Center St., Nobleboro, Maine 04555.

The Commission will decide, based on the application, and agency and public comments at the scoping session, whether licensing the Damariscotta Mills Project constitutes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Irrespective of the Commission's determination to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement for the Damariscotta Mills Project, the Commission staff will not hold additional scoping meetings other than those scheduled, as listed above.

#### Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the Commission staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the NEPA document; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantified data, on the resources at issue, and (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document. Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed.

#### Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and become a part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the Damariscotta Mills Project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to identify themselves for the record.

Concerned parties are encouraged to offer us verbal guidance during public meetings. Speaking time allowed for individuals will be determined before each meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session, but all speakers will be provided at least 5 minutes to present their views.

All those attending the meeting are urged to refrain from making any communications concerning the merits of the application to any member of the Commission staff outside of the established process for developing the record as stated in the record of the proceeding.

Persons choosing not to speak but wishing to express an opinion, as well as speakers unable to summarize their positions within their allotted time, may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record no later than December 20, 1996.

All filings should contain an original and 8 copies. Failure to file an original and 8 copies may result in appropriate staff not receiving the benefit of your comments in a timely manner. See 18 CFR 4.34(h). In addition, commenters may submit a copy of their comments on a 3½-inch diskette formatted for MS-DOS based computers. In light of our ability to translate MS-DOS based materials, the text need only be submitted in the format and version that it was generated (i.e., MS Word, WordPerfect 5.1/5.2, ASCII, etc.). It is not necessary to reformat word processor generated text to ASCII. For Macintosh users, it would be helpful to save the documents in Macintosh word processor format and then write them to files on a diskette formatted for MS-DOS machines. All comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, and should clearly show the following captions on the first page: Damariscotta Mills Hydro Project, FERC No. 11566.

Further, interested persons are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, requiring parties or interceders (as defined in 18 CFR 385.2010) to file documents on each person whose name is on the official service list for this proceeding. See 18 CFR 4.34(b).

The Commission staff will consider all written comments and may issue a Scoping Document II (SDII). SDII will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping sessions.

For further information regarding the scoping process, please contact Rich Takacs, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426 at (202) 219-2840, or Ed Lee at (202) 219-2809.

Lois D. Cashell,  
Secretary.

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#### [Project No. 11472-000-ME]

##### **Consolidated Hydro Maine, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Assessment**

November 1, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for license for the Burnham Hydroelectric Project, located in Somerset and Waldo Counties, Maine, and has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the project. In the FEA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the existing unlicensed project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental protection measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the FEA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-28604 Filed 11-6-96; 8:45 am]

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#### [Project No. 1962-000-CA]

##### **Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment**

November 1, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for a new license for the Rock Creek-Cresta Hydroelectric Project, located on the North Fork Feather River in Northern California, and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the project. In the DEA, the Commission's staff analyzed the potential environmental impacts of relicensing the existing project and concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental protection or enhancement measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the DEA are available for review in the Public Reference and Files